

Board postpones Natural Child verdict

by Jane Touzalin

The Stafford County Board of Supervisors met last Thursday to determine the fate of the Natural Child, Fredericksburg's only coffee house, and again tabled action on the measure until a future meeting.

The Child, presently located at 103 Butler Road, is seeking to expand its facilities and has expressed interest in a new location at 507 Burnside Ave, in Chatham. However, the Stafford County Planning Commission recently ruled that the Child's expanded size now necessitates procuring of an amusement license.

Action on granting the license was first tabled by the Board of Supervisors two weeks ago in the face of opposition from Mrs. Louis B. Massad, wife of a local doctor, who complained that the Natural Child was "weird" and "suggestive" on the basis of the testimony of her 14-year-old son. She and her husband wrote and circulated a petition against the coffee house which was signed by the residents of Burnside Ave., the Child's prospective location. Residents living near the coffee house's present location on Butler Road, however, have refused to sign the petition.

Last Thursday's meeting of the Board of Supervisors was attended by residents of Stafford County and also by a large group of MWC students and supporters of the Natural Child. Mrs. Donald Reed of Fredericksburg addressed the Board, relating her discussion with the landlord of the Child. According to Mrs. Reed, the landlord had told her that the property was always clean and well-kept, and that he had received "no official complaint whatsoever" about the coffee house. She said that she had attended the Child several times and had acted as a chaperone on occasion. "I certainly invite any of you to go and see how the place is run," she said. "I think it's a little odd that people who have never been there—have never set foot inside the door—have all these complaints." As for its customers, "You couldn't ask for a more orderly audience than they are." She concluded by stating that the coffee house was "the kind of place where you can't take children."

Fredericksburg lawyer J.M.H. Willis Jr. spoke in behalf of the Massads who were not present at the meeting. "The issue here is not whether this coffee house, or any coffee house, is respectable, but whether there should be a coffee house in this particular location." He observed that the proposed Natural Child location is "on the fringe of a B-1 zone," for commercial use, and "butts up against residential property." There are still residents on the edge of this B-1 zone such as the Massads, he said. "Young people now are—as they have been for the last 5,000 years—by their very nature a high-spirited crowd." He then stated it was possible that these high spirits could produce disturbances that "would amount to a nuisance."

A lawyer representing the Natural Child called at-

Photo courtesy FREE LANCE-STAR



An audience at the Natural Child . . .

. . . suggestive?

tention to the fact that the Massads do not actually live in the disputed area on Burnside Ave. He then said it would be easy to have a petition, such as the one the Massads circulated, be signed by people if they were uninformed and if the petition carrier used an approach such as: "Look, there are going to be a bunch of long-haired hippies who are going to be smoking pot down there in the basement." He stated that a place of entertainment such as the Natural Child was certainly preferable to many of the places in the county which serve alcoholic beverages and which are much noisier.

One landowner in the area voiced his objection to the Child based on the fact that the parked road which leads to the coffee house might block his private road which leads to the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company. The man rents his land to the C&P and stated that such factors as parked cars, which would block C&P traffic, might affect the renewal of the phone company's lease. Eric Sigmund, co-owner of the Child, assured the man that he would make sure parking was kept off Child property.

"We're not on the fringes of the B-1 zone at all," Eric then said concerning the zoning. "We're well within it—I've seen the map."

A doctor in the audience assured the Board that the coffeehouse has "wholesome environment and

entertainment—completely respectable and in no way disorderly or noisy." He stated that he felt that most of those who criticize the Child have never been there and should have the benefit of experience for their claims to be valid. Mrs. Reed supported this, saying that she had spoken to one person who said she had signed the petition because Mr. Massad was her doctor but that she had not even read it first.

A member of the audience then said that, since no report had come from the County Planning Commission, he thought it would be unwise to act on the matter at that time. Harold T. Knight of the Board of Supervisors agreed and moved that the matter be tabled "until which time we get a report from the Planning Commission." The motion passed.

When asked after the meeting what he felt would happen, Eric Sigmund said said, "I just don't know." He stated that the matter will probably be decided at a meeting of the Supervisors scheduled for Dec. 6.

One observer at the hearing noted that many of the area residents in attendance seemed quite sympathetic with the Natural Child. After the meeting, one of the Stafford courthouse workers approached the Child's co-owners to express her opinion. "I hope you get it—you need it, you need it," she said. "Any-one who doesn't vote for it isn't human."

Photo courtesy FREE LANCE-STAR



Philip J. Hirschkop

Hirschkop to speak at MWC

by Liz Dodge

Philip J. Hirschkop, American Civil Liberties Union lawyer, will discuss "What's Right With America" this Thursday, Nov. 19 at 8 p.m. in ACL Ballroom.

Hirschkop spoke at MWC last year attacking sex segregation in the Virginia higher educational system. He dealt specifically with the coeducation lawsuit being brought against the University of Virginia and with the inequality of educational opportunities at MWC as compared to those at U. Va. As examples of these inequalities he cited the higher faculty salaries and greater number of majors offered at U. Va.

In another case last month, Hirschkop defended a Fredericksburg youth who was charged with contempt of court because of his long hair. When the case was appealed before another judge the charge was dropped, the judge admitting that the court had no right to legislate personal appearance.

Hirschkop is co-founder of the Law Students Civil Rights Research Council and has defended a diverse group of clients including Ralph Abernathy, Dr. Benjamin Spock, and the American Nazi Party. A professor at Georgetown Law School, he was formerly a member of the U.S. Green Beret forces in Viet Nam.

THE
BULLET



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FORUM

editorial

Congratulations

The MWC faculty is certainly to be commended for the results of its meeting last Wednesday. In an inspired and long-awaited move, faculty members voted to postpone action on self-scheduled exams for the third time in less than a year.

The move came as a relief to some in view of the student Senate meeting which had taken place the night before. During their meeting senators threw caution to the winds and flagrantly proposed action on several items. It seemed for a while that the old and loved tradition of inanity at MWC was in danger; but, not to be sneered at, professors stepped up to restore law and order once again.

The faculty's decision came during a truly action-packed session when, like the proverbial bad penny, the self-scheduled exam issue turned up again. Rising to the challenge, professors voted not to send the matter to the faculty Instruction committee because it was already there — one of the most sensible proposals we have heard here in a long time. Although that committee continues to study it students will note with relief that, according to parliamentary law, the issue is already defunct anyway, having officially died in the faculty at the end of the last school year. This is, of course, further insurance against any more rash proposals on the issue — and the faculty would do well to keep this ace up its sleeve. Should the Senate press for a decision, the faculty can always state that the matter is officially dead. Weeks can then be spent in forming an ad hoc sub-sub committee to restudy it. This technique can be used as a most sensible defense against all such irresponsible student requests in the future.

Having thus dealt with self-scheduled exams, the meeting moved briskly along to more pressing matters. As a result of much deliberation, it was voted that a student be added to the powerful Rare Books Committee, a move which seems quite out of character in view of the faculty's usual wise restraint. This is not meant to imply that they have acted rashly on this issue; rather that they should be a little more careful in the future about what they will permit students to do.

It has been of deep regret to many that, as a matter of policy, students are not allowed to attend faculty meetings. We would profit well by the examples which are set there. The quick thinking and sensible results which were attained last Wednesday would have brought cheers from the gallery, if there had been one.

So once again, we say — congratulations. Far from being swayed from their original position by the cries of a hot-headed few, for the third time the faculty has asserted its well-considered opinion. In these times of unrest and upheaval, we should feel secure in knowing that there is at least one body on campus which remains steadfast in the face of change and disruption.

J.T.

feedback

Newton letter called irrelevant

To the Editor:

In reference to the November 2 issue of the BULLET dealing with homosexuality, I believe the BULLET has over-stepped the bounds of relevance in the publication of "A Letter from Huey to the Revolutionary Brothers and Sisters About the Women's Liberation and Gay Liberation Movements." Up to that point, I was really impressed with the exhaustive research apparent throughout the issue, especially those articles directly related to the MWC campus. I, however, failed to see a valid reason for publishing the letter except as a means of further expressing the opinions of the BULLET staff, which were already adequately stated through the rest of the articles. If it was intended as a sort of shock treatment to the apathetic masses, I don't think it succeeded. And if the BULLET felt it of such major importance to the MWC campus to publish it, I can't help but wonder just how many "revolutionary brothers and sisters" of the Black Panther variety really exist at Mary Washington?

Carolyn Click, '74

Ex-editor praises "intelligent" coverage

To the Editor:

Allow me to congratulate the entire staff on the Homosexuality issue of the BULLET.

This is a topic which deserves to be brought "out of the closet" and discussed rationally, and the BULLET coverage was quite intelligent, informative, and comprehensive.

Respectfully,
Liz VanTrease, '70

see FEEDBACK, page 8

reach out

Subtlety—the worst policy

by philo funk

Discrimination is not always as apparent as a hanging wooden sign that warns, "No colored people allowed." Hidden censorship of people or issues has become a more effective and less precarious tool for those who wish to discriminate in today's world.

Subtle forms of discrimination occur not only at MWC (and our Southern-based awareness of "appearances" may tend to heighten the subtlety somewhat) but at schools as far west as UCLA and as far north as Springfield College in Massachusetts. Far from being aimed only at students, prejudice often reaches into other areas of academic world. This fall a former Italian professor at UCLA filed a \$7.5 million defamation suit against the university's Italian department chairman, claiming that she had been fired not because of her teaching abilities but simply because she was not Italian by birth. The ex-professor further revealed that as an instructor she had often been discriminated against and even excluded from departmental meetings. Also at UCLA, Arab students claim that an attitude of "open enmity" exists among many of the professors toward the Arabian people. Students also point out the lack of Arabian teachers on the staff.

A supposedly liberal school is the small and privately-endowed Springfield College. This fall a student there was suspended under the nebulous charge of "conduct unbecoming." His specific offense: using four-letter words to criticize a large building development in Springfield in a few columns he wrote for the school paper. A faculty member of Springfield College said, "Students' rights, civil rights, and civil liberties are out of the reality of our college president. He chooses money over the first and fourteenth amendments."

If the moneyed classes dictate to small private schools as in the Springfield College case, state-supported universities suffer even more severe repression. Student independence

We must persist

To the Editor:

I have submitted to the BULLET this week as many results as could be printed from a student questionnaire that was conducted and compiled over the last four months. What is said on the different issues speaks for itself: many interested students, who took a lot of time to send back pages of answers to the questions, have shown that they do want to be heard, that they care, that an outlet is needed for their frustrations, ideas, and so forth.

I have heard already some rather defeating remarks from one member of the faculty who seems to either 1) have missed the point, or 2) have gotten the point but has chosen to ignore it. He stated that this poll was possibly comparable to those BULLET interviews on the drug user/pusher and homosexuality — the beliefs being that these things are really not authentic, but are instead fabricated to reinforce an opinion which is held by the particular sponsors of these "inquiries." In connection to this, he objected to the quotes not being assigned to the person who said them — saying that one's year, average, SA or non-SA capacity, etc., were all totally relevant to the quotes in this report, as they would shed more light on why a particular student said what she said. He missed it — he did not see this as a story about students here whose distinction from one another in this case is a matter of ideas, perceptions, impressions — NOT a matter of age, grades, or offices.

Too much has been invested into the principle behind this poll, too much into being fair and not ignoring any faction, regardless of what personal feelings I have for or against what a student says. Too much faith in the students to allow a "higher-up" to cast their testimonies aside with all the incredible gall and misunderstanding of a bull in a china shop.

crossfire

Vietnam—what went wrong

(Note: the following letter was submitted to the BULLET by Mrs. Jean Edson, professor of physics and music at MWC. The letter first appeared in the DARTMOUTH ALUMNI MAGAZINE of October, 1970, in response to a letter sent by undergraduates of Dartmouth to alumni during Strike Week last May. John L. Mecklin, author of the letter, is a member of the board of editors of FORTUNE magazine and formerly worked as a foreign correspondent for TIME in Vietnam.)

Dear Mr. Cunningham:

Please forgive this belated reply to your challenging letter of May 11 on the Dartmouth "strike." I have delayed in order to find time for a rather exhaustive exposition of thoughts that have been on my mind for some time, and I certainly must apologize for the lengthiness. I was in Vietnam for a total of more than five years between 1953 and 1968, so the subject comes close to the bone. At the same time, I am a lifelong member of the Dartmouth family (my father was a professor there for a quarter century), and your strike has stirred my keen interest.

Let me say at once that I join other alumni with whom I have discussed the strike in approving the moderate manner in which you have expressed your views. I also concur with your thesis that the United States should get out of Vietnam, but for quite a different set of reasons.

First, about the argument of your letter. You have raised some critical questions, but more as unsupported assertions than a reasoned plea. What is your authority for writing that it is a strike "by Dartmouth College?" Were all the students and faculty members polled? One of the reasons for the present disarray of the nation certainly lies in bewilderment resulting from that kind of claim, the question of who speaks for whom. The public opinion polls continue to show a majority supporting Mr. Nixon's policy in Indo-China (together with a wish to get out when possible), so what is your authority for writing that "Mr. Nixon's 'Silent Majority' is not a majority?"

"Radiclibby"

(Any resemblance between this poem and Lewis Carroll's "Jabberwocky" of THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS is completely intentional.)

'Twas autumn, and the effete snobs—
Adial, Goodell, Tydings, Gore—
Were ringing bells and turning knobs
Of voters by the score.

Beware the Radiclib, my son!
And clauses ADA doth hatch
Avoid the Harry Byrd, and shun
The Garland-Rawlings match

He took his verbal sword in hand:
Longtime the Nixon fo he sought—
So rested he by the Thurmond tree,
And stood awhile in thought.

And as in Stromish thought he stood,
The Radiclib of Eastern fame
Came nattering through the Milhouse wood,
And nabobbed as it came.

One, two! One, two! And through and through
The verbal blade went Spiro Spack!
He left it dead, and with its head
He came Harlowing back.

"And hast thou slain the Radiclib?
Come to my arms, my Teddy boy!
O Cassius Clay! Agnew! Agnay!"
He Chot'nered in his joy.

'Twas autumn, and the effete snobs—
Adial, Goodell, Tydings, Gore—
Were ringing bells and turning knobs
Of voters by the score.

by E.F. Hewins

Similarly, how about some arguments to support your point that "expanding the war is a dangerous way to achieve peace?" If that is true as a general principle, as you imply, does it follow that the Allies were wrong to land troops in Europe in 1944 to destroy the Nazis, or indeed that Washington was wrong to expand the war by crossing the Delaware? If you are a pacifist, opposed to all war, then let's hear the arguments. It just isn't good enough to be unqualifiedly in favor of peace. I'm sure you realize that, but you have nevertheless provoked me to try to analyze the question as it applies to the mess we are in today, and particularly to the dilemma of Vietnam.

If there is a single, dominating fallacy in the thinking of a good many people today on foreign policy, it is the idea that you can "declare" peace, that we have the option simply to disarm and spend the money on programs like cleaning up the environment. (In fact, mankind surely has the resources to preserve both the environment and the peace.) It is a harsh but undeniable fact that human beings are the only animal with an instinctive drive to fight their own species. However repugnant the thought may be, the only peace the world has ever known has always been created by force, and weakness has always invited aggression. To deny that reality is to be contemptuous of thousands of years of human history, yet there seems to be a countervailing instinct among modern democracies to try to deny it anyway.

We fought in World War I to "Make the world safe for democracy," but the principle had been put aside 20 years later when a new generation permitted the rise of Hitler. Perhaps it is a characteristic of youth raised in a democratic environment to insist that war is unthinkable. I can recall petitions circulated at Dartmouth in the 1930's, when Hitler was already in business, in which we were invited to pledge never to bear arms, no matter what the issue. That kind of thinking-personified by the youthful hero of the era, Charles Lindbergh-led us to defer confronting the Nazis until it was almost too late. By 1945, when the war was won, it had become an absolute that aggression anywhere was a peril that must be opposed, and it seemed inconceivable that this could ever again be denied.

Events led the Allies to invoke the principle almost immediately in the late 1940's as the Russians converted Central Europe into a system of colonial provinces, while China fell to the Communists in one of the greatest disasters of our time. The global American reaction against further aggression, reinforced by the formation of NATO, was so successful that it forced the Communist powers to turn inward to improve their own standards of living by better management, and eventually to grudging relaxation of a few of the rigid Stalinist constructions on individual freedom. The frustration also led to internal fragmentation of the Communist world, the Soviet-Chinese schism, and such liberalization movements as Poland and Czechoslovakia. But it is essential to remember the lasting wisdom in President Kennedy's remark that the hub of the argument among the Communists is "how to bury us."

It is a grim-yet familiar-irony that members of your generation, as the beneficiary of a quarter century of peace preserved by American power, as well as years of unprecedented economic prosperity, should now be opposed to some of the key policies that made this possible.

The irony becomes even more uncomfortable when you consider the change in the situation today as compared with the immediate postwar years when the U.S. inherited global responsibility as the dominating power in a shattered world, capped of course by our atomic monopoly. As recently as 1958, I stood on the beach at Beirut and watched the U.S. Marines come ashore without opposition. Today the Soviet Navy maintains some 70 odd warships in the eastern Mediterranean, which certainly is no longer an American lake. There have been similar shifts in the power balance in many other places, as nations recover the muscle lost in World War II. Despite the views of many American right-wingers, we no longer have the option to apply military force by whim all over the world.

editorial

A question of power

Last week Linda Royster presented to the Senate a complete revision of handbook regulations concerning residential and campus life. She moved that the Senate pass these revisions, making them effective for the Student body. It came as a surprise to some of the Senators that they had the power to take such action.

If the Senate does not even have the power to make and change social rules, then it serves no purpose and should not exist. The revisions are necessary ones that we know must come eventually. There is no reason why they should not come now through Senate action.

Mimi Hearne and other SA executive officials, remembering the six-month hassle with the administration over the change in the drinking rule, foresee similar administrative problems involved in making the recently proposed revisions. Such haggling and bickering with the administration over changes in rules which the Senate has passed would be an unnecessary waste of everyone's time. Students live in the residence halls, and students must enforce residence hall rules. It can only follow that students be the ones to make those rules. If the revisions are passed by the Senate, they should be presented to the administration as the new regulations under which the student body has agreed to live.

It is time that the administration stop taking the childish attitude that any major change in residential rules be considered by students a "privilege granted" by the powers above. We do not need privileges when we have definite rights. Administrators tell us that they are concerned with our safety and welfare. Do they consider us so immature that they feel we are not concerned about it ourselves? They are welcome to make suggestions and raise objections. If the suggestions and objections are valid, they will be seriously considered. But the final decision must lie with the students themselves.

We urge the Senate and the student body to consider the proposed revisions carefully and to assume their rightful role in the decision-making process of the school.

THE BULLET

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Handbook proposals to test Senate effectiveness

by Kathy Atkinson

Last Tuesday night's Senate meeting proved a definite surprise to senators who came expecting the most stirring issue to be the proposed Bill of Rights. The final draft of the Bill of Rights was indeed presented, but a comprehensive revision of student and administrative regulations was also proposed from the floor by Senator Linda Royster.

The proposal would abolish sign-out and flip-out procedures and would make it possible for a student to either leave or return to the dorm at any time. The key system would be revised with students picking up keys at the security office when they return to campus rather than signing out for them before leaving campus. Provision would also be made for the possibility of more open house in the event that two-thirds of the residents in a dorm supported such a change. Also proposed is the complete elimination of the dress code. Many other smaller deletions, additions and clarifications are enumerated in the revision.

Linda feels that the changes are long overdue. "I was astonished at the regulations when I came here in 1966," she said. "A large part of the reason girls leave campus is that it is impossible to live a normal life here — you can't have guests when you want or come and go freely . . . It is important to allow the maximum freedom possible without endangering the safety of one's self and others . . . I believe that by making these changes this will be achieved. Perhaps the things that have seemed self-evident to me will prove the same to others," she continued.

Concerning reaction in the Senate, Linda observed, "It was a surprise to the Senate, but the kids seemed favorable." There was "no nit-picking" at the meeting, which Linda feels may simply have been because people were so astonished. She hopes individual meetings with constituents will produce favorable reactions and good ideas.

Because each of the issues is to be decided separately some feel that the matter will get bogged down in endless debate and possibly never be resolved. As a result of Tuesday's meeting Linda feels that to a certain extent this may be true, but not to the degree that she first anticipated. If it does get tabled, "... the Senate might as well dissolve, because it's just not good. This is one of the few chances we have had in a long time to prove that the Senate is not impotent," she commented.

As far as administrative reaction is concerned, Linda expects it to be "not good at all," because the administration is "totally jealous of its prerogative to decide everything." She considers such an attitude a waste because she feels that there are many more important things to occupy the administration's time, and that presently the administration is needlessly

binding itself to do things that students can do for themselves.

In the event that the proposal is rejected by the administration Linda would like to see the Senate "reconsider it and pass it again — then if it is still rejected the Senate should issue a mandate" to put it in effect. "We have latent power — all we have to do is assume that power . . . We should not run scared just because the administration balks at first," she said. "I don't want to have to battle the administration because I think it's a waste of time — I think we should work together."

As a representative for the day students, Linda feels that there are many things she would like to see considered for her own constituents; however, she thinks it will be futile to accomplish anything along that line until a final decision is reached on this present issue. "I think we should pass it, get it over with and go on to more important things," she stated.

Both Student Association President Marilyn Morgan and Campus Judicial Chairman Sue Cottingham stated that they are very much in favor of Linda's proposal, but both also have reservations about its prospects. "The changes are obviously very necessary," said Marilyn, "but the important thing is that

the safety, security and concern for others living here has been kept in mind in revamping." She added that although the old regulations were created with safety and welfare kept in mind, in many cases they have lost their meaning and now serve no purpose. "I'm all for personal safety, but I wouldn't want to impose my feelings on others," commented Sue. They both tend to have an "I'll-believe-it-when-I-see-it" attitude. "I don't think it's anything major yet," says Marilyn.

Concerning the outlook for the proposal, Marilyn thinks the Senate will probably pass it with modifications. Sue feels that although people are excited about it now, when it comes to working on it the Senate may get bogged down in "piddling details." Both anticipate negative administrative reaction, and Marilyn said, "It might be a real problem if the administration passes it by."

Despite any difficulties which the proposed revision may encounter, both Marilyn and Sue are pleased that the move has been made. Sue feels that the proposal is important because "a senator came up with it and there is something going in the Senate." "The students now have something to stand behind and unite around," Marilyn said.

Tidewater team has four from MWC

Four members of the Mary Washington College hockey team have been selected to play for the Virginia Tidewater team, a composite group representing the most outstanding women players in the Tidewater Area. Mary Jane Chandler, Pam Hudson, Patty Johnson, and Andy Sosnowski were chosen after a tournament sponsored by the Virginia Tidewater Association at William and Mary Nov. 7. Other competing schools included Christopher Newport College, Longwood College, Old Dominion University, Virginia Commonwealth University, Westhampton College, the College of William and Mary, and the "scopers" (a team comprised of substitutes from all the other teams).

The MWC hockey team played three games during the tournament and emerged with a 4-0 win over Christopher Newport, a 0-1 loss to Old Dominion, and a 0-0 tie with William and Mary.

Players from all participating teams were chosen to represent the Virginia Tidewater area in the southeastern tournament at Goucher College Nov. 21-22. MWC students Patty Johnson, right fullback, and Pam Hudson, left fullback, were chosen for those defensive positions on the first team. They will participate in a later tournament against a team from England. Mary Jane Chandler, center forward, and Andy Sosnowski, left wing, both on the offensive team, were chosen for the second team. Right wing Sarah Clayton received an honorable mention.

The hockey team closed its regular season two weeks ago with a 0-1 loss to the University of Maryland. The second team played to a 0-0 tie. Final season record for the team is four wins, three losses, and no ties.



Photos by Anne Gordon Grever

Handbook changes proposed in Senate

By Linda Cayton

Day student Senator Linda Royster presented to the Senate Tuesday night a student handbook for Senate consideration and subsequent action.

The revised handbook includes the elimination of many old, rigid social rules and replaces them with broader and more liberal guidelines. As Linda explained, "These are matters which no longer need to be debated. Social rules are just not that important in regard to our goal as an educational institution."

Senators received copies of the proposed revisions to use in explaining the new social rules to their constituents. Senators will then debate and vote on the new regulations at an open Senate meeting.

In other business, members of the Senate formally approved an amendment calling for a parliamentarian "who shall be neither a senator nor an alternate, to advise the President of the Senate on all points of order." Debbie Buckwisch was formally voted to this office.

Also, senators voted to add three new committees to the list of Senate standing committees. These will be an Academic Affairs Committee, a Social Affairs Committee, and a Student Welfare Committee.

With details still in the planning stages, the Senate voted to approve a plan submitted by National Affairs Chairman Susie Taylor to replace an annual Thanksgiving basket drive with a benefit band concert. Contributions from the concert will be donated to the Welfare Rights Organization. The collection of Thanksgiving baskets will be organized on a purely individual and voluntary basis in each senatorial district.



"What social life?"

Poll shows little apathy—only confusion

Popular opinion at Mary Washington College has generally held that students here are chiefly notable for their apathy. According to MWC Senator-at-Large Dory Teipel, however, estimates of the amount of apathy which exists on campus have been greatly exaggerated. During the summer Dory distributed opinion polls to 400 students and the results were, as she described it, "better than anyone ever dreamed."

The poll, backed by Student Association, was an attempt to sample student opinion on such topics as academic affairs, social life at MWC, politics, student power, last spring's Strike, the BULLET, and student government.

"Beneath what seems to be a lacquered shell of complaisance at MWC, there is a surprisingly alive,

confused, and questioning student body," Dory observed in her analysis of the poll results. "The problem is not so much one of apathy as it is of frustration, lack of being informed, and the very American feeling that when you really get down to it 'what difference does it make what I say or feel?'"

Pollies were asked to be "gutsy, spontaneous, and creative" in their comments; according to Dory, many of the 120 students responding to the questionnaire "attached reams of typed pages to their answers," and seemed excited and interested in being able to freely express their opinions.

In the area of academic affairs, 57 per cent of the pollies responded indicated that they were "satisfied" with the decision-making policies in their

departments; 29 per cent stated that they were not satisfied. However, a large 73 per cent of the respondents said that they would prefer to have more say in choosing the courses which form their education. When asked if they found the education at MWC "stimulating," 35 per cent said yes, 17 per cent said no, and 42 per cent replied that it was "somewhat" stimulating. 74 per cent of the pollies revealed that they had, at some time, considered transferring to other schools. "I have seriously considered transferring," one student wrote, "But I decided against it because I feel my greatest challenge lies in a small, backward, southern girls' school . . . it would be a lot easier to go to a place where the student body held ideals which were more like my own. But such schools do not need more people of that type."

Over half of the pollies reported that they were chiefly inspired to study for the value of learning (55 per cent), but a close 44 per cent stated that grades were their main motivating factors. One student answered that her motivation to study came from both: "idealistcally, learning; practically, grades... most courses are taught to fit around the trade system."

On the social life at MWC: "What social life?" one pollie asked. "The only big events MWC has are the Christmas and Spring formals and who likes to go to formals anymore?" 77 per cent of all respondents said that they were dissatisfied with the social life here; 21 per cent expressed satisfaction with MWC extracurricular activities.

The poll also examined the issue of student power. 64 per cent of the pollies felt that student power exists in some form at MWC; 36 per cent indicated a belief that, as one student wrote, "There is no such thing." "I think it shouldn't exist," wrote another student; "We have plenty of time to change our world after these four years."

Concerning the Strike activities of last spring, 57 per cent said they either approved or strongly approved of the MWC involvement as compared to 32 per cent who disapproved or strongly disapproved. 9 per cent remained indifferent to the Strike events.

Dory's analysis of the opinion poll closed with a large number of proposals and suggestions—academic, social, and otherwise—which students had advanced in their polls. First on the list is a call for better student-faculty relationships. Areas where more academic freedom could be attained (self-scheduled exams, calendar revision, curriculum changes,

See POLLIES, page 7

Senate rehearses exam debate

by Judy Blinn

This year the old debate over self-scheduled exams is being rehearsed with an extra push from the Senate. At the Senate meeting November 10, the following resolution was passed:

"Whereas, students through the Student Association have advocated a proposal for self-scheduled exams, and

"Whereas, no results have been forthcoming,

"Be it resolved: that we the Senate mandate the student representatives of the Instruction Committee to wholeheartedly pursue such matter for results this semester."

A committee composed of students and faculty members is presently working on trying to formulate a viable plan. So far, little has been accomplished at faculty meetings because a plan has not yet been presented in full. Students on one of the subcommittees have been working on an idea advanced last year by Miss Dana Finnegan. What the plan basically proposes is that semester examinations would be placed in one office of each department during the entire exam period; all students would have to do is pick up the exam when ready and complete it in the same building at their own scheduling. A faculty member would be on duty during the day. This plan of self-pacing would prevent a student's being faced with three exams over a two-day period, a not uncommon occurrence under the present system.

Senators have been given petitions for their constituents to sign regarding the self-scheduling proposal. The petitions will be presented to the faculty at the next meeting of the student-faculty committee. Committee member Kathy Marilla has indicated that it would be helpful if students would approach individual teachers and request self-scheduled exams. Otherwise the plan will go back on file again, waiting for someone in another year to resubmit it.

news in Brief

Mrs. Laura V. Sumner, Professor and Chairman of the MWC Classics Department, has been elected president of the Southern Section of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South.

Mrs. Sumner's election came at the annual meeting of the Association held in Miami, Florida November 5-7. She is the first woman to hold this office.

The Second Annual Soil-Ecology Field Day will be held at MWC Tuesday, November 17.

Sponsored by the plant ecology division of the Department of Biology, the annual conference and field trip is expected to draw representatives from other colleges and universities and from related governmental agencies. Other interested persons are invited to attend.

The day-long program will begin with registration at 9:30 a.m. in Room 100 of Combs Science Hall. The morning session which follows will be devoted to papers, lectures, and films on soils, soil surveys, and the ecological aspects of soil-plant relationships. Following a free box lunch provided by the college, there will be an afternoon field trip to study the soils and ecology of the Fredericksburg area.

There will be a meeting of Sigma Omega Chi Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 6:30 p.m. in ACL 108.

The MWC Senate will hold its regular meeting Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 7 p.m. in ACL Ballroom. The meeting will be open to any student who wishes to question or comment upon the proposed student Bill of Rights. All students are urged to attend.

The Campus Christian Center will sponsor an Around-the-World Bazaar this Wednesday, Nov. 18 from noon to 4 p.m. in Ann Carter Lee. Items of decoration and apparel made by people in needy countries will be offered for sale.

The MWC swim team will meet the team from Westhampton College Wednesday, Nov. 18 at 4 p.m. in Goolrick pool.

Faculty tables exams again

by Robin Darling

Last Wednesday's faculty meeting brought no change in the present exam situation. The faculty, by an 89-35 vote, pigeonholed the issue once again. However, it was voted that a student member be added to the formerly all-faculty Rare Books Committee.

Last year self-scheduled exams were first proposed by former faculty member Miss Dana Finnegan. That motion and a subsequent, substitute motion were tabled and no further action was taken on them during that session.

Miss Kemmler of the mathematics department moved at the Wednesday meeting that self-scheduled exams be referred to the Committee on Instruction and Academic Affairs. The motion was defeated when one faculty member pointed out that the committee was already studying the motion anyway.

However, the faculty parliamentarian reminded the meeting that a tabled motion is dead at the end of a session. The committee is nevertheless continuing to study the possibility that students be allowed to schedule their own exams with the consent of the professor. As one faculty member commented, "It was the dullest, most boring meeting in two years."

Mortar Board will sponsor its annual Major Counselling Night this Wednesday, Nov. 18, in all classrooms and study lounges of Monroe Hall.

The program will be in the form of two workshops dealing with each major field, at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m.

Major Counselling Night is designed to aid any student who is undecided about her major or who has questions concerning an intended major. Mortar Board members and student representatives from each major will participate. Topics to be discussed for each major field are major requirements, upper-level courses, strengths and weaknesses of the department, interests catered to in the department, graduate school and career opportunities, student-teacher relationships, and personal evaluation.

The Spanish Club will meet Wednesday night, Nov. 18 at 7 in duPont 107.

John Cage of Wesleyan University will speak on "How to Improve the World" this Thursday, Nov. 19 at 1:15 p.m. in ACL Ballroom. The lecture is sponsored by the department of music.

There will be a meeting of the sophomore class Thursday, Nov. 19 at 6:30 p.m. in ACL Ballroom. All sophomores are urged to attend.

Philip Hirschkopf, ACLU lawyer, will speak on "What's Right With the World" Thursday, Nov. 19 at 8 p.m. in ACL Ballroom. Hirschkopf is being sponsored by the campus chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

The Federal Service Entrance Examination will be given at 8 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 21 in Combs 100.

"The Lion in Winter," a film about Henry II of England starring Katharine Hepburn and Peter O'Toole, will be shown Saturday, Nov. 21 at 8 p.m. in GW Auditorium.

The Senate will meet next Tuesday, Nov. 24, from 7 to 9 p.m. in ACL Ballroom, and will reconvene Tuesday night, Dec. 1 after Thanksgiving vacation.

Chi Beta Phi will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 3 in Combs 3.

December 4 and 5 mark the MWC Winter Weekend. Friday, December 4 a hayride and coffee house will be held. A semi-formal dance featuring the Centaurs will take place Saturday from 9 p.m. to midnight in ACL Ballroom. "Fanny," the scheduled Saturday-night movie, will be shown once at 2 p.m. Saturday and again at the regular time of 8 p.m. in GW Auditorium. The weekend is being sponsored by the sophomore class.

The music department will present a general student recital Monday, Dec. 7 at 6:45 p.m. in duPont Auditorium.

Senior Class Career Night will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7 in ACL Ballroom.

Phi Nu Chi will hold a meeting Tuesday, Dec. 8 in Combs 100.

SEA will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8 in Monroe 21.

The Senate will meet Tuesday, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. in ACL Ballroom.

There will be a meeting of Mu Phi Epsilon Wednesday, Dec. 9 in Pollard 39 at 4 p.m.

The Outing Club will meet Wednesday, Dec. 9 at 6:30 p.m. in ACL 100.

The annual junior class Christmas Bazaar will be held Thursday, Dec. 10 in ACL Ballroom from 7 to 11 p.m. Gifts, decorations, and hand-made items will be sold.

"The Russians Are Coming, the Russians Are Coming" starring Eva Marie Saint and Carl Reiner will be shown Saturday, December 12 at 8 p.m. in GW Auditorium.

The MWC Christmas Choral Concert will be presented Sunday, Dec. 13 at 4 p.m. in GW Auditorium.

Why U.S. policy went wrong in Viet Nam

from page 3

On the contrary, we are slowly reverting to the prewar status when security could be achieved only collectively through alliances among strong and sovereign nations. In direct proportion to our loss of unilateral power, the need for a clear and steady understanding of our values and objectives has grown, along with the threat to our ultimate security in a troubled, confused and often hostile world. We are moving into a period of crisis in international security comparable to the angry, directionless furor of the late 1930's. By chance of history, Vietnam has become a critical focus of today's furor.

The explanation of the bind we are in lies in a reality of the struggle in Vietnam that has received deplorably little attention: that the error was not in the principal of U.S. intervention, but in a puzzling failure of performance after we got there. The failure was so monumental as to stagger even the critic — the inability of the world's most powerful nation to establish order among 15 million peasants despite the commitment of a half-million highly trained troops, supported by an annual budget of \$30 billion, the best weaponry the world has ever known in unlimited quantities, reinforced by more than a million men in the South Vietnamese forces.

Ideologically, Ho Chi Minh's Vietminh movement, which he began organizing in the 1930's was an extension of Chinese Communism. But it was also inspired by Vietnamese hatred of French colonialism, which surely ranks among the least enlightened of our time. The Vietminh contained a distinct "Titoist" character in the sense that they sought successfully to steer a relatively independent course between the Chinese and the Russians. But the Vietminh were always dedicated to the prime objective of extending Communist power into the rich lands of Southeast Asia and the subjugation of the peoples who lived there — as proved most recently by revelations of the extent of Vietnamese Communist penetration of Laos and Cambodia.

The Viet Cong in South Vietnam were formed out of Vietminh stay-behind cadres after the Geneva agreements of 1954 that partitioned the country. They have always been such total creatures of the Vietminh regime in Hanoi that very few Westerners today can even name any of the V.C. leaders. U.S. intelligence has mountains of evidence, such as secret radio intercepts, proving that the V.C. take even minor operational orders directly from Hanoi or its covert southern proconsul. The Communist propaganda line that the V.C. are indigenous patriots is as absurd as it is successful among unknowable Westerners seeking an excuse for failure in Vietnam.

In 1954, I witnessed the Vietminh taking over Hanoi from the French, and it was a spectacle I can neither

adequately describe. You could literally feel the might of a superbly organized police state come over the people, insidiously clothed in patriotic slogans, imposed by lock-stepping troops in tennis shoes. "You are deliriously happy," shouted the agit-prop workers through megaphones, "your joy is unbounded." It was "joy" by the numbers, imposed, disciplined joy from which any spontaneity (which surely existed) was drained in advance, never again to be tolerated.

North Vietnam became a community where it is a crime not to report to the police a simple suspicion of a neighbor's political loyalties, meaning the slightest digression from enthusiastic support of the official line. A man was subject to arrest if he merely lived on the same street as a discovered offender and had failed to detect and report him: he was guilty of a crime he did not know he had committed. The degree to which the Asian Communists have suppressed human dignity and the most basic principles of human freedom is difficult for an American even to conceive.

How, then, did the U.S. go wrong in Vietnam? Essentially the error resulted from a frozen misconception among American leaders that the tactics we used successfully in World War II and Korea must be equally applicable in Vietnam. Uncannily, this was exactly the mistake the French made in Indo-China, yet we failed to learn from them. We assumed, as the French had, that we could overwhelm the Viet Cong with tanks, airplanes, and big guns. We refused to recognize — and this is the key to the disaster — that Mao Tse-Tung and Vo Nguyen Giap had developed a new form of warfare. (The Communists call it "liberation war," a huge misnomer in view of its objective, but the term has stuck.) It was designed specifically to make it possible for an army of peasants with little capital or technological resources to defeat an ultra-modern force by astonishingly imaginative guerrilla tactics against which fancy weaponry was almost meaningless.

If you are interested in this, there is an excellent book on the subject called "No Exit From Vietnam" by Sir Robert Thompson, published about a year ago. Thompson was one of the architects of the British victory over the Communist insurgents in Malaya in the 1950's and subsequently served in Vietnam for about five years as head of a British Advisory Mission. His advice to the Americans and Vietnamese was treated with deplorably little response.

The key to the Asian Communists' success, as Thompson's book spells out, lies in their techniques for blending themselves with the people so totally, and covertly that the Western enemy is denied a target for his big guns and airplanes — except the target of the people themselves, which of course is unacceptable. The blending process is based in large

measure on intimidation — "support us or take the consequences" — followed up by intensive, compulsory indoctrination of the people in Communist ideology, reinforced by police state controls.

The heart of such controls rests in tens of thousands of covert agents — the so-called "infrastructure" — who have been working in the hamlets in many cases for decades, creating communities where the real boss, like the Mafia in Chicago or New York, is the undercover commander who enforces his wishes by sweet persuasion if possible, uninhibited terror if necessary. For years, there has been an average of better than five thousand murders and kidnappings annually throughout South Vietnam, mostly of hamlet leaders, teachers, and other local government employees. (Indeed the fact that the Saigon government can still recruit such officials, despite the terror, is remarkable evidence of the degree of anti-communist feeling that continues to exist in the South.)

Seeded through the thousands of the 12,000 hamlets in South Vietnam, the infrastructure not only provides recruits but, equally importantly, it is one of the world's best intelligence networks. It makes it virtually impossible for Allied units to achieve surprise in attacks on the Viet Cong, or even to find them at all. It prevents establishment of a lasting Saigon government presence, except through permanent occupation, and of course its observation network is the reason why so many thousands of Allied "sweeps" into enemy territory have found nothing but empty jungle, V.C. terrorization of the peasants has been revealed repeatedly by their failure to warn U.S. and Vietnamese forces of impending ambush, or hidden mines, leading occasionally to such uncontrollable anger as the My Lai Massacre.

Generally, Allied tactics in Vietnam have been based on exactly the reverse of the correct priorities. Where the Communists concentrated on control of the people, we tried first to achieve "military" victory by seeking to bring the V.C. into classical big-unit battle. The Communists shrewdly exploited this to keep us engaged in the bush along the frontiers, and thus off the backs of the secret agents who had fastened police state discipline on the hamlets.

By dint of sheer numbers and firepower, of course, the Allies did force the Communists to bring in hundreds of thousands of North Vietnamese troops to stay in business. By 1969, the struggle was slowly swinging our way, and we probably could have prevailed eventually, but we will never know. The cost was too high to preserve the necessary political support at home. We were, in short, suckered into defeat by attrition exactly as Mao and Giap had planned.

See VIET NAM, page 7

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"Taylorites" keep the faith

by paddy link

James Taylor is omnipresent and supreme. Last weekend's rampant rumor of a free Taylor concert at American University was squelched by a harried switchboard operator who did not understand where people got the idea in the first place.

But a small faction believes that he was there nevertheless. The Taylorites believe that James is everywhere. Even though he has never appeared when he was rumored to, Taylorites believe that there has to be something behind the heresy. Once Taylor was said to be playing in Richmond, Philadelphia and DC at the same time. Obviously, say the Taylorites, when he is spread so thinly, how can he have the energy to play the guitar and sing? Hence a basic Taylorite truth: he cannot sing unless he is in one place for an extended period of a few hours.

The Taylorites get irked when people say James was not at AU last Saturday. Even more exasperating to them are those who are beginning to lose faith.

Sometime next week, the Taylorites are meeting in the AU amphitheater. They want to get quite a mob together. It is hoped that through the mad-

ness and delusions of a crowd, their sweet baby James may appear before their very eyes.

events in the arts

CONCERTS

Nov. 22, "Sunday Concert," the National Gallery Orchestra conducted by Richard Bales. 7 p.m., East Garden Court, National Gallery of Art.

LECTURES

Nov. 22, "British Art Today." Guest speaker: Roy Slade, Dean of the Corcoran School of Art, Washington, D.C. 4 p.m., Auditorium, National Gallery of Art.

CINEMA

Dec. 5, "Dream of the Wild Horses." A classic film poem of the wild horses of Camargue; photography against soft-focus backgrounds and musical accompaniment of electronic sounds. Continuous half-hour showings from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., National Collection of Fine Arts.

ART EXHIBITS

Through December, "Jasper F. Cropsey," an exhibition of the work of this 19th century American artist. National Collection of Fine Arts.

from page 6

ned. And our disastrous effort to try the same sterile tactics in Cambodia has now demonstrated that the Nixon Administration still does not understand what went wrong.

It has become fashionable among critics of the Vietnam war to say that we failed because the people did not want our side to win. This is certainly not the case. The South Vietnamese know all about the harsh life in the North, and there is strong evidence that they prefer the Saigon government for all its faults. If that were not the case, the government would have collapsed years ago. The V.C. plainly expected just that at the time of the so-called Tet offensive in early 1968. Instead, not a single South Vietnamese unit defected, and the offensive ultimately was judged to be a major V.C. blunder. The ingredients unquestionably existed for victory over the Viet Cong and the establishment of a stable, independent government, if only we had been smart enough to recognize the right way to go at it.

If the U.S. had devoted its main effort to rooting out the infrastructure, the mechanism of V.C. control of the people, and to providing direct and permanent security to the hamlets, we probably could have saved South Vietnam. It probably could have been saved, moreover, with probably less cost in lives and treasure. In effect, what was needed was a massive police action to establish real security at the hamlet level, as the British demonstrated in Malaya, not the empty big-bang tactics of maneuvering armies.

Why we refused to see this—even though men like Thompson and a good many junior officers in the field began pushing for such tactics years ago—is baffling. Despite the fact that we were facing the first great failure in American military history, we changed commanders in Saigon only once in five years—in dramatic contrast with our performance in other wars that were going badly, e.g., the half-dozen commanders that Lincoln went through before he arrived at Grant. A form of hardening of the arteries in the Pentagon and White House perhaps? Or the intractable stubbornness of Lyndon Johnson and Generals Taylor, Westmoreland, and Wheeler? Whatever the explanation, this has been a sorry moment, and the peril of failure to learn from it is incalculably great,

Thus my reasoning in writing at the outset that I agree we must get out of Vietnam. The cost of bumbling has simply become greater than the real estate is worth, not to speak of some 40,000 American lives in futile sacrifice, and the violent disruption of our domestic community.

John M. Mecklin, '39

Pollees "should be listened to"

from page 5

etc.) were also discussed by many pollees. Coed dormitories, drinking during open house, and more social functions were widely supported.

Dory feels that, although the percentage of poll returns (slightly over 25 per cent) may not be considered large enough to be valid by some, the results are still quite important and not to be overlooked. Concerning the pollees, she said, "...they really wanted to talk about things on campus and offer ideas. They didn't have to do this at all; nobody expected

'the apathetic MWC students' to have even faint concern. But because they proved this to be a fallacy, I think, they should be listened to by more than just the SA officers for whom this report was originally and solely intended."

Although copies of the 16-page report can not be printed for the entire student body, Dory stresses that anyone who is interested in seeing the complete results of the poll should call her at ext. 525. She expects to give copies to senators, all faculty members, administrators, and SA officials.



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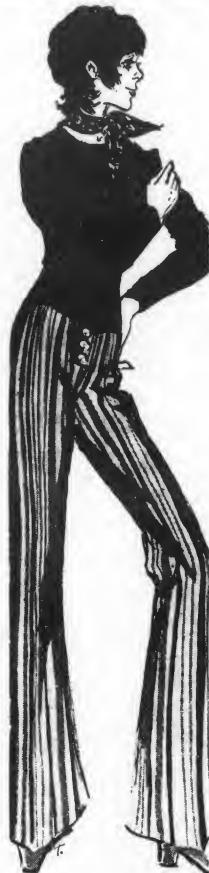
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feedback continued

from page 2

This attitude is not new here, but it is somewhat new to me. I am still incredulous as to this person's reaction, and I am discouraged and angered. What bothers me is not merely the disrespect for the efforts made in the poll, but more importantly, what that disrespect symbolizes for me, for all of us. It symbolizes our plight, and our impotence—the student dialectic itself. Here we have only one more reminder of that struggle, and, from that, the question that goes with it. The dilemma which makes us say "How can we go on trying to convince people of something when, even if we are heard, we are misunderstood or dismissed as waifs in the court of a very wealthy and smug king?" While at the same time, feeling: "The madder we get, the more we must try. The longer we persist, the more we mean it, the greater we are in number—nobody can budge us if we show that we are not to be put aside."

If there is disagreement, fine. But for God's sake, let it be valid disagreement: that means thinking, trying and understanding must come first. Our self-respect as students has been diluted by such shame, disapproval, and misunderstanding. We must be strong, we must retrieve it.

Don't let anyone break your spirit—it's a precious thing and a necessary part of survival gear these days. And if you've any to spare, pass it on. There are a lot of people whose spirits were broken down a long long time ago.

Dory Teipel
Senator-at-Large

Bazaar to help needy

To the Editor:

There's going to be an Around-the-World Bazaar sponsored by the Campus Christian Center, held on Nov. 18 from 12 to 4 p.m., in ACL. This is an annual thing, although many people who remember it from last year would like to know more about it all. It's part of an overseas self-help program directed by Rev. Mr. Clements, who has an organization called Mission Valley up in Freeport, N.Y. Mary Wash is part of the world market established for the sale of crafts made by people in needy countries. New items this year include everything imaginable: ponchos, dress lengths from Guatemala, Yucatan peasant blouses, Ecuadorian wool stoles hand-woven in 30 colors, dolls from Hong Kong, carved woods from Africa and Haiti, hand-carved onyx figurines, ecumenical pendants, Indian and Mexican jewel boxes, various pieces of jewelry, Christmas decorations in straw, silk squares, and suede pouches and shoulder bags. Sounds good, huh? Let's give these craftsmen a hand in making a living. There will be a lot of beautiful things at the bazaar. Come on out, feast your eyes, and, yea, spend some money.

Liz Patterson, '72

Parent responds to BOR

To the Editor:

As the parent of an MWC freshman I want to say I am extremely proud our daughter is a member of an academic community which allows the freedom of expression we observe in the BULLET. You and your staff are to be commended for the publication of an interesting paper. If indeed there exists campus apathy, it is not because you have failed in your presentation efforts.

With reference to the November 9 issue, I would like to raise consideration of the question regarding the Student Bill of Rights, section 35 (A) which reads: "No record may be made in relation to any of the following matters except upon the express written request of the student: A. Race."

Many times a person is required to seek information regarding race percentage participation, for instance: How shall one who is not a member of your community learn the correct

number of Negro students in attendance if there is no official record? There are, especially now, many statistical inquiries which must be made—most of them advantageous to minority races—to determine progress or retrogression. It might be necessary for concerned parties to the passage of the Bill of Rights to weigh the advantages of this particular section against its disadvantages.

I speak as an inquiring reporter who, from time to time, encounters contradictory rules and regulations in multiple governing situations.

Sincerely,

Mrs. William F. Rabe

Where is the crossfire?

To the Editor:

Several weekends ago I was interested to read a letter from Daniel Dervin in your "Crossfire" section, discussing the question of weekend absenteism and the related issues on this campus. This is my first year at Mary Washington, but I have already been made aware of the issues which concern Mr. Dervin. From what I can gather in my conversations with both faculty and students, the weekend exodus here has by this time become a true "chicken-egg" question, whatever it may have been in the past. Students are pushed off this campus by conditions that exist here on weekends just as much as they are drawn to urban areas and other schools by conditions there.

Mr. Dervin said in his letter that he was primarily concerned with the effect of this migratory movement on his classroom experience. This is also my main concern. I have already noticed the preoccupation of my Friday classes and the listless (not to say hung-over) air with which much of my Monday and Tuesday classes arrive, not to mention the sizeable proportion which is absent altogether. I too am finding it difficult, in terms of paper assignments, readings, and general class continuity, to teach students who are here only four and a half days a week.

Mr. Dervin mentioned several specific situations on campus that seem to encourage a deserted weekend campus. It seems desirable to me to have the library available to students later than 5 p.m. Saturday, especially since most students who now stay here for the weekend do so because they must do some form of research. Surely it would be of benefit to students here to have somewhere over the weekend—even the C-shop—to meet with their friends, to bring a boyfriend, or to discuss the Saturday movie. It further seems plain that it would not be difficult to improve the quality of the Saturday night movies themselves.

These are just a few of the issues mentioned by Mr. Dervin; but I think they are of the most important. As interesting as Mr. Dervin's letter was to me, however, the response to it was even more interesting. Since it appeared I have waited patiently for a reaction; and I have seen none, despite Mr. Dervin's specific invitation ("It's his letter—'is not meant as a diatribe, but as a step towards dialogue.'")

As I mentioned above, I am new here, and I do not know what to make of this lack of response. Is the faculty silent because most agree with Mr. Dervin, or because most disagree, or because they are not particularly interested, or because they would rather not comment? Are the students silent because they agree with him, or disagree, or are not interested, or feel that it would be wiser not to stick their necks out? Or are both faculty and students silent because they both know that nobody reads the BULLET anyway? Or is it that everyone knows that Mr. Dervin is just "this way," and thus need not be taken seriously?

I am curious (new faculty). I cannot tell which of these possibilities is right, if any. I would be glad to read (or hear) reactions and opinions.

Bruce Carruthers
Department of English

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The bullet

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interview with

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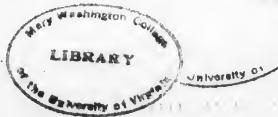
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Miss USA sees exploitation as mutual, but beneficial

(Note: Last month the BULLET interviewed Miss Debbie Shelton, winner of the Miss USA contest and a native of Virginia.)

SPONSOR: Lovely ladies of Mary Washington College, I give you Debbie Shelton!

BULLET: If you could be any character in history, who would you choose and why?

DEBBIE: I've never thought about it before, but I guess—the Virgin Mary. She'd be about the most interesting, because you couldn't think of any greater role in history. It would be the most interesting and the most amazing thing—to see how your faith would hold up then.

BULLET: What do you perceive as your role as Miss USA?

DEBBIE: It's not all the glamour and excitement everyone thinks it is. It is exciting to travel; but mostly the glamour is when you win, when you're walking down the runway at the end. The rest of the time you're really involved with working with people; you act as a diplomat. The role is really fascinating. Your job is to let everyone know you love them. You're a diplomat, businesswoman, and babysitter—you have to do a little bit of everything.

DEBBIE: They don't think it's bad, except they do wonder about the crime. They think of Americans as being really wealthy, fat, and jolly. They really look up to Americans because they consider America the strongest country in the world. There's a difference between me going to visit a country and someone like Rockefeller, because I'm a girl. They are affectionate people and very warm to girls. They look on beauty queens differently than here. In another country you ARE a queen to them—especially in Europe and Latin America. In the United States; well, it is a big deal but it isn't. You're always trying to prove that you're not dumb or snotty. People here expect a beauty queen to turn them off. But in other countries they put women way up there.

BULLET: What made you decide to try for the title of Miss USA?

DEBBIE: I had been sort of thinking about it for a long time, but the final decision was made because I was mad at my boyfriend. It was the best way to spite him; because guys really hate the idea of something like that. It was the smartest thing I ever did in my life. The opportunities in this are too many to mention. And it gives you a better perspective on life; I can solve problems better now. You go into the year's reign as a girl and you come out a woman. You're working with adults all the time, and you



pageant. The Miss America contest has a talent part; it's good for entertainment, and it makes for a better TV show. Miss USA is strictly a beauty contest. It doesn't profess to be anything else. There's an evening gown and then a swimsuit competition. And then you have a two-hour personality interview with the judges—that's the toughest part, what really counts. So beauty isn't all it goes on. I'm supposed to be the most beautiful girl in the USA, but I don't even say I was the most beautiful girl in my pageant. Now more is required of a beauty queen than to be just a statue, a pretty face. You have to have an elegance and still be groovy. You have to know how to talk. And you have to have healthy attitudes towards different questions of today. Last year's Miss USA had strong opinions for and against some things. But you can't have a strong political view because you're representing the USA as a whole. Like let's say I wanted to go out and smoke pot. The question isn't just "do I WANT to do it?" It's a question of a big responsibility. You have a lot more people to think about. So many peoples' jobs depend on what you've said; that's what makes you feel like a woman. You can't be as impulsive—it teaches self-discipline. And, you know: with young people, because you're not yet

BULLET: What sort of political opinion do you think the judges would like a contestant to have? 21, your political views can be kind of kooky. Young girls are impressionable; they can be swayed. For the pageant you should just be an all-around girl.

DEBBIE: They don't make you feel as if you have to have a certain opinion. They don't tell you what you should think about. Your political views are your own; why should anybody else care? you're not really in politics.

BULLET: Many women in the women's liberation movement see beauty contests as an exploitation of the commercial potential of women—the use of women as money-making objects. How do you feel about this?

DEBBIE: I don't feel exploited at all. I would never be booked, say, for where a Senator was running. That would be political. I have my own political views but they are a private thing. Women as projects? I don't think it's true at all. The whole world is made up of people who mutually use each other. As Miss USA I'm sponsored by Kayser-Roth. I can use my title for references in later life. They're using me to endorse products, but it's all a business, an enterprise. I'm well taken care of. I'm clothed from the skin out, I live in a \$75 a day room in Miami, they give me everything I need. It's like Miss America—they've really spent a bundle on her. Now the girl who was last year's Miss USA said some bad things. She was really wrong. She thought she was going to get all this for nothing. But if you play your cards right you've got any door open to you. You're not exploited because you're exploiting them, too. They're not parading you like at some cattle show.

BULLET: What do you think of the women's liberation movement?

DEBBIE: I think women's liberation is silly, stupid and ridiculous, because of the way they go about doing things and because of the people involved. I was in New York once during a woman's liberation march and it's a bunch of some slobby ladies. Every movement has good ideas—I think women should get equal pay too—but burning bras? That's about as silly as if men would burn their jock straps. They're slobs, that's all they are. They haven't shaved their legs, and that's stupid. They're trying to make themselves so ugly to prove a point. They're so horrendous; they're the girls who can't make it looks-wise so they're trying to find some way to stand out. I don't



BULLET: Do you see yourself as representing America as a whole or American women?

DEBBIE: Both. I represent the US and American women as a whole. You have to take on a little of both personalities—a little bit of everything. I just came back from Portugal and Spain and I was really representing the United States as a whole. You do more than Nixon or any of the diplomats, because people aren't biased against you; they expect you to be a dumb smiling statue. You just have to bring all the warmth and love from your country. If you smile and be warm and friendly, then you are representing your country. It's hard sometimes because you don't always feel like having make-up on all the time, but you're Miss USA and you feel you have to look your best.

BULLET: Many other countries view the United States as a nation characterized by war, racism, prejudice, crime, etc. How do you feel representing a country which is thought of in this manner?

DEBBIE: When you go to another country you find they mainly think of the United States as being wealthy; they expect you to tip a lot. About racism, I don't know how to answer the race question. A lot of other countries don't understand the prejudice here—but they are all prejudiced about someone. Also other countries think there is so much crime here—they ask you, "do people really get killed in the streets?" But that's just the propaganda they get—they hear all the bad parts. They're really interested in the crime and especially New York City—they're fascinated by New York.

BULLET: Does it make you uneasy to be representing a country other people seem to think so badly of?

begin to look at things through everybody's eyes; you begin to understand the Establishment. But you want to let people know you're really no different, still the same girl next door; like to the little old ladies. You have to prove yourself in a lot of different ways to lots of different kinds of people.

BULLET: What are the qualifications for entering the Miss USA contest? Does it differ from other pageants?

DEBBIE: It's different from the Miss America

